

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Killeen:

As 2017 comes to a close, let's reflect on all we've accomplished.

We spent a significant amount of time looking at the past this year with a management audit examining 15 years of our City's finances. It found no instances of fraud or abuse and no missing money, which should not only provide reassurance but also rebuild confidence in your City.

2017 included the hiring of City Manager Ron Olson. He joined us with more than 37 years of city management experience and has brought a new perspective to our community that is already producing results.

Olson worked tirelessly with staff to develop and present a balanced budget for the 2018 fiscal year, which started in October. The budget allocates resources to provide core services to the community while maintaining the tax rate. It also

builds the fund balance to create financial stability in this and future years.

A nationwide search brought a new police chief to town. Charles Kimble became leader of Killeen Police Department September 1. He comes with more than 25 years of law enforcement experience, 20 of which was spent in a similar military community, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

These are but a few of the year's highlights. While they were widely publicized, they shouldn't overshadow the day to day work of our dedicated staff. From first responders saving lives and property, to code enforcement officers making our city more beautiful, to parks staff ensuring recreational amenities and activities are offered, to the administrative staff's managing and processing paperwork, it is all of these efforts and more that make city government work.

Let's all give thanks to our City staff for their dedicated service!


Jose L. Segarra, Mayor

GOOD NEWS RINGS, ARE YOU LISTENING?

The City of Killeen shares good news about our community year round, and we hope you're tuned in. Useful information about services, programs, hours and more is just a click away 24-hours a day.

In addition to this newsletter, we offer a variety of ways to stay informed and to keep in touch. Our website is your always-open City Hall and is a hub for information including news releases, meeting agendas and recordings, codes and much more. Visitors can also submit work orders and make payments.

More than 13,000 people like us on Facebook, and we hope you'll join the fan club. We post new content daily and typically respond to questions within an hour.

Our very popular video program Good News Killeen hits Facebook, YouTube and Spectrum Channel 10 every other Wednesday to keep you up on all that's happening. There's plenty of good news, Killeen!

NEW TRIMMIER FOR THE NEW YEAR

If you use Trimmier Road, you have probably been counting the days for construction to end. Well...the wait is almost over!

Finishing work is now underway to ensure final completion before year's end. And while the roadway is smooth and striped, it remains a construction zone, so continue to use caution.



The total project has spanned three roadways and nearly three years. Trimmier, from I-14 to Elms Road, is the final piece and includes the addition of a continuous center turn lane, new inter-sections, signalization, sidewalks, and lighting.

Lowes Boulevard west of Trimmier was extended to meet Florence Road, and Gateway Drive was constructed to connect Lowes to the access road.

East of Trimmier, a four-way traffic signal was installed at the busy intersection of Lowes and Walmart boulevards.

WS Young Drive was the first segment completed when it was widened at Bacon Ranch Road to add a continuous center turn lane.

As the project comes to a close, motorists and pedestrians can look forward to a holiday season with fewer orange cones and more green lights in this bustling commercial corridor.

ANNUAL WREATH PROJECT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery invite you to participate in the annual Wreath Project.

The Friends have led a community effort for over a decade with one simple goal: to express remembrance and appreciation for veterans and their families during the holidays by placing a wreath at each grave in the veterans cemetery.

There are now more than 8,000

graves in the cemetery, and it will take thousands of volunteers to ensure that every one has a wreath.



Make the Wreath Project one of your family's holiday traditions and join the Friends at one or all of their events.

WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 18 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3301 S. W.S. Young Dr.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 25 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

Wreath Retrieval

Saturday, January 13 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

www.wreathsforvets.org

KNOW B4U BORROW

The holidays can create the temptation to overindulge on more than just food. It's easy to overspend too.

If you turn to a credit access business for short-term financial assistance, remember that the City of Killeen has adopted an ordinance to protect you from predatory lending practices.

Pay day, car title and other short-term lenders must be registered with the City to do business. Registered businesses will conspicuously display a certificate and Military Lending Act sign.

Borrowers should know that a payday advance cannot exceed 20% of their monthly gross income. A title loan cannot exceed 3% of gross annual income or 70% of the vehicle's value.

City ordinance also sets out standards for number of installments, extensions and payments toward principal for loans.

Credit access businesses that are not following these standards are violating the law. If you encounter a business that is not displaying a certificate or is making loans that do not comply with City standards, contact Killeen Police Department.

[KilleenTexas.gov/Credit Access](http://KilleenTexas.gov/CreditAccess)

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

If you've told your family, "I'll be home for Christmas," and you have to fly to keep your promise, Fly Killeen!

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport can connect you to anywhere in the world. Three airlines offer multiple flights daily from Killeen to their international hubs: American flies to Dallas, Continental to Houston and Delta to Atlanta.

Located in southwest Killeen on State Highway 201, you'll find that our airport offers superior convenience to others with a shorter drive time, easy and affordable parking, quick check-in and short security lines. Baggage claim is also a breeze when you return from your trip.

Rates from Killeen have been very competitive recently with bigger city airports. Some destinations are seeing rates up to \$50 less per ticket, others are the same or just a few dollars more.

When booking your holiday travel or travel in the New Year, be sure to compare rates from Killeen, airport code GRK. You can find competitive fares with the bonus of local convenience.

Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!



KILLEEN UP! AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

The City is offering a special collection to dispose of excess holiday trash at no additional cost.

On your special collection day, you may place your roll-out container plus bags up to 33 gallons or boxes up to eight cubic feet at curbside for pick-up. Make sure to leave at least four feet between your can and additional bags and boxes. All waste should be placed curbside by 7 am on your scheduled day.

Take advantage of this great service and Killeen Up! after the holidays.

<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Special Day</u>
Monday	January 1
Tuesday	December 26
Thursday	December 28
Friday	December 29

Reminder: the City collects trash on holidays. Remember to put your can out on your regular collection day.

PUT SAFETY ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST

Simple safety precautions can help you and yours this holiday season...

Home Safety

- Lock every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how long you are gone
- Place lights on timers; make it look like someone is home
- Leave window shades in normal positions if you are going away, even just overnight
- Set your security alarm every time you leave home
- Place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows
- Beware of strangers at your door

Neighborhood Safety

- Know your neighbors, their children and their cars
- Report suspicious activity to

police no matter how small

- Offer to watch your neighbor's home while he is away, and ask him to do the same for you

Holiday Shopping Safety

- Do your shopping as early as possible to avoid the crowds
- Keep your purse, wallet and packages close at all times - it only takes a second for someone to grab and go
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; if you must, put it in your front pocket
- Lock all packages and valuables in the trunk of your car
- Always lock your car, and never leave valuables like cell phones, navigation devices or gifts in plain view
- Beware of strangers approaching or following you

Fire Safety

- Only use artificial trees labeled "fire resistant"
- Be sure to buy a fresh live tree as dried out trees are a serious fire hazard
- Check all the bulbs and cords on light strands before using
- Make sure outdoor lights are certified for outdoor use
- Never use lighted candles on or near a tree
- Never leave burning fires or candles unattended

Other Safety

- Holidays make us generous, but be careful giving donations to groups you don't know
- Teach your children what to do if you become separated and what to do if they feel scared or threatened

• **NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE**

GREEN IS EVERYONE'S COLOR

The annual Keep Killeen Beautiful Christmas tree recycling event is your chance start the New Year off green. Rather than leaving your tree at the curb to be placed in the landfill, **go green** and recycle it.

Residents are invited to drop off live Christmas trees January 6 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive. Be sure all decorations including tinsel, ornaments and lights are removed.

Trees will be chipped and shredded then offered back as landscaping mulch.

If you resolve to be greener in 2018, Killeen Recycle Center is ready to accept your materials. Open Monday through Friday, the center accepts drop-off of #1 and #2 plastics, all types of paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, cell phones and rechargeable batteries.

The Recycle Center also accepts used oil. Used cooking oil of all types can be recycled but should not be mixed with other oils, lubricants or water. Individuals can drop off up to five gallons of used automotive oil along with used oil filters and antifreeze.

Household hazardous waste products like paint, pesticides, fertilizers, corrosives and flammables are not accepted at the center but are accepted at special events throughout the year. Keep these products sealed in their original containers until the next event so they may be disposed of properly.

Remember that none of the materials mentioned above or any other substance or material should ever be placed in the watercourse. Disposing of items properly and recycling when possible protects our environment and water supply.

HAPPY HOWL-IDAYS

Animals end up in shelters for all sorts of reasons. Some are lost, some abandoned and some surrendered. No matter how they got to Killeen Animal Shelter, their way out could be you.



Dozens of dogs and cats are looking for forever homes. They're all ages, sizes, breeds and temperaments. If you are looking to add to your litter, consider rescuing first.

Check out all the adoptable pets online at KilleenTexas.gov/Animals, or visit the shelter to give an animal a loving home for Christmas.

SEE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

The joy of the holidays will fill the streets of historic Downtown at the 55th annual Killeen Christmas Parade December 9 at 4:30 pm. Floats and performers will celebrate the season and bring the "Magic of Christmas" theme to life.

The parade route begins at Avenue D and College Street then turns on Gray Street, Sprott Avenue, 2nd Street and ends on Avenue B. A route map is available online.

Spectators should come early to secure the best parking and viewing spots and to enjoy festive food provided by vendors along the route.



SEASON'S EATINGS

Feast of Sharing

This year marks a decade of the City of Killeen and HEB serving the annual Feast of Sharing community meal. Join us in continuing the tradition December 12 from 4 to 8 pm at Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The Feast of Sharing is free and open to everyone. Live entertainment, fun activities and delicious holiday food will spread the holiday cheer!

Volunteers and participants are welcome. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

Breakfast in Toyland

If you love Santa and pancakes, you can have both at Breakfast in Toyland December 2 from 8 to 10 am at Killeen Community Center.

Kids and kids at heart can enjoy a full pancake breakfast, syrup and all, with a \$5 advance ticket.

Santa loves pancakes too and is making a special trip to Killeen to eat with all the good boys and girls. He wants to hear wish lists and take photos, so join him for a jolly good time.



LIGHT THE NIGHT

Killeen's annual Outdoor Decorating Contest is a celebration of lights! If your holiday lights shine bright, complete the online entry form at KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer and email a digital photo of your home by December 6 to compete for best in town.

Online voting for fan favorites will be December 7 through 14. Winners will be announced publicly December 15.

For more information, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

JINGLE BELL DASH

Jingle all the way...to the finish line! The Jingle Bell Dash 5K is December 2 at 8 am at Killeen Community Center.

Register at KilleenTexas.gov/Centex. While you're there, check out the race schedule for 2018 and resolve to compete!

MORE ON CITY HOLIDAY EVENTS

KilleenTexas.gov
[Facebook.com/KilleenTexas](https://www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas)

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Santa Claus is leaving the North Pole for warmer weather and will be in Killeen December 1! Join him as he lights the City's holiday tree and kicks off Holiday Under the Stars.

The festivities begin at 6 pm at the Killeen Community Center. Santa lights the tree at 7 pm sharp then sticks around to take pictures with children.

The event continues with live entertainment, cupcake decorating and arts and crafts bringing cheer for the whole family. In addition to traditional holiday favorites, you can enjoy exciting new adventures in a life-sized snow globe and on the Everest Slide! Then the evening wraps up with a holiday movie on the big screen under the stars at 8 pm, so bring blankets to cuddle up.

Saturday festival fun starts at 8 am with the Jingle Bell Dash and Breakfast in Toyland followed by activities until 3 pm.

Dear Santa,

Santa's Helpers are delivering letters from Killeen boys and girls to the big man! Drop your child's letter in the box at the Community Center or Family Rec Center by December 15, and elves will make sure it gets to Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Address letters to:

**Santa Claus c/o
the North Pole.**

Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can write back!